ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A process for restoring magnetic recording tape damaged by "Sticky Shed" syndrome cleans magnetic tapes of the Backcoating which is causing their eventual degradation and destruction. The Backcoating is first removed in a multi-step process. A liquid cleaner, such as isopropyl alcohol, is applied to the Backcoating to dissolve it from and clean it off the Mylar Base. Before the liquid cleaner is applied, steps are taken to prevent the cleaner fluid from getting onto the Oxide side of the tape. The chemical cleaning is done as quickly as possible. The second step is to dry clean the Base surface of the tape to remove the remaining solvent and the debris of any remaining Backcoating. Then, the Oxide side of the tape is given a dry, non-chemical cleaning to remove the residue of contamination of the Backcoating which was deposited on the Oxide side of the tape as the result of physical contact with the Backcoating from the storage on the reel of tape. Once fully and properly cleaned, the tape is restored to a useful and long life. A machine is disclosed to carry out various mechanical and chemical actions involved in the inventive process in a safe and logical manner.